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New Intel chip to boost PC graphics

Chips aimed at boosting performance as Intel looks to make computers entertainment centers.

June 17, 2004: 6:56 AM EDT

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Intel Corp., the world's largest chip maker, is set to launch Thursday a highly-anticipated new chip designed to sharply improve and expand the power of personal computers.

Intel is expected Thursday to officially mark the launch of its Grantsdale chip set, which will work in tandem with Pentium processors to give PCs more powerful sound and graphics, a speedier link for peripherals and memory, and give desktop PCs the ability to run a wireless data network.

Having those features built into the core components of a computer could be essential to Intel's strategy as it tries to turn the PC into the heart of home entertainment.

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In concert with software maker Microsoft Corp. and PC makers including Gateway Corp., Intel has pushed the development of "entertainment" or "media center" computers that record television shows, store music and photograph collections.

Intel (INTC: Research, Estimates) plans to sell Grantsdale chips for \$30 or \$40, no more than the prior generation of chip sets. But the extra features offered could steer shoppers away from PCs built with chips from rival Advanced Micro Devices Inc.

Chip sets, which work as gatekeepers for data coming into and out of the core of a PC, rarely get much attention from

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the public.

In the case of Grantsdale, analysts say the chip set has an unusually broad impact on not only computer users, but also makers of computer components.

Graphics chip makers, for instance, have already shifted strategy to conform their products to a faster data conduit known as PCI Express, which will get its first broad industry support in Grantsdale.

■

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32 L10

<u>L9</u>	thread\$3 near9 (shar\$6 or common) near4 cache	107	<u>L9</u>
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<u>L7</u>	L6 near12 lock\$3	347	<u>L7</u>
<u>L6</u>	thread\$3 near12 wait\$3	2795	<u>L6</u>
<u>L5</u>	ready near7 strob\$3 near9 wait\$3	37	<u>L5</u>
<u>L4</u>	L1 near25 (read\$5 or synchrniz\$6 or wait\$3 or hold\$3 or held)	6	<u>L4</u>
<u>L3</u>	L1 near25 priorit\$7	0	<u>L3</u>
<u>L2</u>	L1 near25 wait\$3	2	<u>L2</u>
<u>L1</u>	thread\$3 near15 (shar\$6 or common) near4 cache	125	<u>L1</u>

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<u>L13</u>	ready near12 strob\$3 near25 wait\$3	50	<u>L13</u>
<u>L12</u>	L11 not l5	12	<u>L12</u>
<u>L11</u>	ready near12 strob\$3 near12 wait\$3	49	<u>L11</u>
<u>L10</u>	L9 and synchroniz\$5	32	<u>L10</u>
<u>L9</u>	thread\$3 near9 (shar\$6 or common) near4 cache	107	<u>L9</u>
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